

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Motegi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,817,946). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Motegi teaches a display device which provides both a slot game and a colorful and rich display by virtue of the mechanical reels. A superimposed display device includes an image display section, mechanical reels, a lighting section, a half mirror and images. The image display section is disposed in a position to face a player side. The mechanical reels are disposed on a line which intersects another line connecting the image display section and the player side. The lighting section illuminates the mechanical reels. The half mirror which is inclined in a plane includes a region where the above lines intersect, in which virtual images of designs on peripheries of the mechanical reels are shown in the same plane to a player. The images are shown by superimposing in the entire region or a part of the region of the virtual image display region.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying designs and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 1 recites that the front display device includes a transparent liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen, a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the entire of the liquid crystal display panel and a diffusion sheet for diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates the liquid crystal display panel. Also, claim 1 recites that, in the light guiding plate and diffusion sheet, transparent areas in a form of a plurality of windows ensure the visibility of the variable display of the variable display device are formed. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate are arranged in a facially-opposed sequential manner such that the diffusion sheet is disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate and the light guiding plate is disposed between the diffusion sheet and the variable display device.

We propose to argue that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amend above. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach that the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate are arranged in a facially-opposed sequential manner such that the diffusion sheet is disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate and the light guiding plate is disposed between the diffusion sheet and the variable display device. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Also, newly-added claims 4-10 also include features not shown in the applied art.

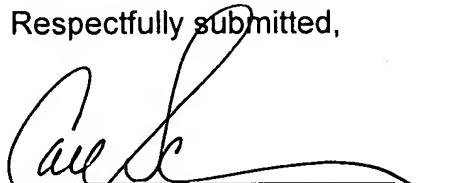
Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

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RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (1 month)

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